

Wilderness House Literary Review 12/1

Erik Nelson

Things That Are Not Fish

Silverfish are not fish.

Jellyfish are not fish.

Cuttlefish are not fish.

Starfish are not fish, and they are not stars, either.

A catfish is actually a fish, but it is not a cat.

A seahorse is not a horse. It is a fish.

The Portuguese Man Of War is not Portuguese, it is not a man, and it is not at war.

It is a jellyfish.

Which, as we have already seen, is not a fish.

The Portuguese Man Of War jellyfish is named after a ship called the Portuguese Man Of War.

The Portuguese Man Of War (I mean the ship this time) was actually Portuguese and actually went to war.

But it is not a man.

It is a ship.

Even though the Portuguese Man Of War is not a man, it might be manned by men.

This has nothing to do with the fact that each separate part of a jellyfish is a separate organism that is called a person.